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division of mankind, driven some time after 2500 B.C. from India into Indonesia where they blended with "Armenoids" from western Asia and moved on into the Pacific, peopling most of the islands and probably reaching America; (3) Polynesians, "Aryan" seafarers from Mesopotamia and southwestern Asia, who came by sea to Java before 500 B.C., pushed eastwards not long after the beginning of the Christian era, drove out or exterminated the earlier Melanesian inhabitants in the eastern Pacific, and even roamed over a large part of America. The last-named are his sun worshipers *par excellence*, who have left their traces in megalithic monuments in all portions of the globe, in Mexico and Peru, the islands of the Pacific and Indonesia, western and northern Asia, North and South Africa, and western Europe. Myths and traditions, burial customs, insignia of royalty, cannibalistic rites, fire walking, sacrificial offerings, kava drinking, and linguistic data are invoked, one after the other, in support of the theory. The chapter on "Language and Place-Names" is characteristic of Colonel St.-Johnston's methods. He considers Polynesian as "virtually the extinct Turanian language." "Turanian is of the type known as agglutinative . . . [and] the general tendency is for the agglutinative type to change on further development into the inflectional type. Two well-known inflectional languages that succeeded the Turanian were the Semitic and the Aryan." "Egyptian, Assyrian, Arabic, Persian, Indian, and even Mongolian languages have all brought their quota to the ultimate result of 'Polynesian' as we know it." "Another word common to England, Greece, and Polynesia is sea-urchin, seen as *ἐχῖνος* (Greece) and *ekina* (New Zealand)."

The book as a whole makes very interesting reading, especially the little original anecdotes of native life in Fiji. It will do valuable work in drawing the public attention to the complexity of Oceanic cultures and to the vast historical problems that they involve; but the writer's arguments contain too many unproved hypotheses and too many false generalizations for his solutions to be accepted at their face value.

D. JENNESS

ETHNOLOGY OF THE COPPER ESKIMO

D. JENNESS. *The Life of the Copper Eskimos*. 277 pp.; maps, diagrs., ills., bibliogr., index. (Report of the Canadian Arctic Expedition 1913-18, Vol. 12. Southern Party, 1913-16.) Dept. of the Naval Service, Ottawa, 1922. 9½ x 6½ inches.

This appears to be the first, or preliminary, report of the anthropological results of the Expedition and, according to the author's statement, is addressed to the general public, in contrast to future volumes upon music, language, material culture, etc. which will be of a more technical character. We are reminded at the outset that the misfortunes of the Expedition and the untimely death of M. Henri Beuchat disarranged the plans of the party, preventing the author from reaching his objective, the Copper Eskimos, until the autumn of 1914 where he, as the sole anthropological survivor in the Southern party, undertook to carry on alone all the phases of the investigation. With this task he occupied himself, as circumstances permitted, until July, 1916, something less than two years. In fact, the time of actual contact with the Eskimos was much less; thus the first Eskimos were met on November 19, and subsequently it was not possible to keep in constant contact with them. Nevertheless, owing to his experience elsewhere and his manifest genius for the work, the author seems to have gathered a large amount of data. His task, as he conceived it, was to follow the lead of Stefansson, the first technical observer of these Eskimos; for he states that "Mr. Stefansson obtained an astonishing amount of very valuable information in a comparatively short space of time, and while it was inevitable that a certain number of errors should have crept into his accounts, yet his works will always stand as the basis on which future investigators will have to build" (p. 11).

The subject matter of this preliminary report is, in the main, organized under such conventional topics as distribution and trade, houses, society, the food quest, marriage, birth, death, religion, and amusements. In addition, there are descriptive sections on the country and a chapter on psychology and morality.

As those familiar with the reports of the earlier Stefansson expeditions know, the home of the Copper Eskimos is along Coronation Gulf, on the north side in Victoria Island, as well as on the south side, on the Canadian shore, some 30° west of Hudson Bay. As during more than half the year the Gulf is frozen over, it presents no great barrier. One feature of the Copper Eskimo habitat should be noted, it lies across the great road of seasonal migration for the caribou; hence, so long as these herds survive, they will in season be accessible to these Eskimos. Between times, there are the immediate inland

waters for fishing and fowling and in winter the Gulf for sealing. It may be remarked that this is the locality chosen by the late H. P. Steensby as the most probable birthplace of Eskimo culture and, therefore, to be regarded as the environment most favorable to such a culture. Anyway, there is good reason to believe that the culture of these Eskimos is highly typical of the whole. Consequently any such contributions as the volume under consideration are doubly welcome, for already the culture of these people is losing its primitive character by the introduction of firearms, iron tools, and new methods of livelihood. Our author may thus be the last to come in contact with this original, but now passing, type of Eskimo culture (see also D. Jenness: *The Cultural Transformation of the Copper Eskimo*, *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 11, 1921, pp. 541-550). Yet we are warned on page 47 that later the author will bring forward proof that the Copper Eskimos reached the Coronation Gulf region but recently. The wisdom of withholding so important a matter is certainly questionable; the logical place for it is in the present volume, for upon this hinges the interpretation of the data presented.

Though, as the author states, material culture and technology are to be treated in a later volume, he gives us a long detailed account of houses and tents and another of food. These chapters leave little to be desired as to content. The varieties of shelter, both in summer and in winter, are given *in extenso*, and the range of food, methods of eating, etc., are portrayed. The lack of wood in their habitat dooms the Copper Eskimos to houses of snow and skin, while the fauna leaves them but three dependable staples, caribou, seal, and fish, which unfortunately have their seasons of accessibility. Hunting, sealing, and fishing are described to complete the narrative. A unique section, however, is that dealing with the winter and summer life of the group, or following the calendar around. While the northern Indians congregate in summer and scatter in winter, the reverse holds for the Copper Eskimos; for they live in large villages on the ice in mid-winter, begin to scatter in the spring, and finally spread out inland for fishing and hunting, to come together again when the ice begins to form in September and October. The author followed one group through its round of life and gives in detail a diary account of the doings of his companions from April 14 to November 8, inclusive. During this interval the party crossed to Victoria Island and wandered about, east and west, over some 4° of longitude; but it is quite impossible to summarize further the discussions of social life, religion, etc., that follow, for the text deals with real events and individual happenings.

In the way of adverse criticism, it may be noted that the form of the work and the lack of topical headings, with some laxity of organization, will detract from the value of this volume as a work of reference. Fortunately, a topical index is provided, otherwise the reader would be compelled to scan numerous pages for the data desired.

Finally, the author and all those responsible for the Expedition and its results are to be congratulated upon this volume which, as supplementary to Stefansson's initial account, goes far to fill the gap in our knowledge between the Eskimos of the West and those of Hudson Bay. As this is the first of a series of five volumes, we may expect that the culture of the Copper Eskimo will become the best known of all.

CLARK WISSLER

TRAVEL AND POLITICS IN EASTERN AFRICA

SIR ALFRED SHARPE. **The Backbone of Africa: A Record of Travel During the Great War, with Some Suggestions for Administrative Reform.** 232 pp.; maps, ill., index. H. F. & G. Witherby, London, 1921. 16s. 9 x 6 inches.

In this book, dealing with the highlands of eastern Africa, Sir Alfred Sharpe has given us a volume of unusual interest, largely political, partly a frank expression of vexed questions of policy, at times the experience of a traveler with an eye to the economic future, and again, merely that of the enthusiastic hunter of big game. Its author was administrative head of Nyasaland for many years and traveled extensively in that region and in Northern Rhodesia, the eastern Congo, Ruanda, Uganda, and Kenya Colony and is thus well qualified to speak on his subject.

The Kivu region of the eastern Congo apparently left the deepest impression upon him. Here is a country of unexcelled climate and of rich pastures of grassland where cattle do well and which is commercially almost untouched by the white man. In Nyasaland, where European settlement has progressed rapidly, coffee, formerly the most important European